

## **Abstract**

The present invention relates to a method for identifying an antagonist or inhibitor of the expression of a gene encoding a polypeptide essential for bacterial growth or survival as well as for an antagonist or inhibitor of said polypeptide. The invention further relates to a method for improved antagonists or inhibitors. The invention also provides an antagonist or inhibitor of the activity of said polypeptide. The invention is further related to a method for producing a therapeutic agent in a composition comprising said antagonist or inhibitor. Furthermore, the invention is related to the use of the polypeptide and the antagonist or inhibitor as well as to a method to identify a surrogate marker.